

Form PTO-1390
P21701.P01U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

P21701

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR
1.5)

09/926546

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/FR00/01361

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

19 May 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

20 May 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

FLEXIBLE CONTAINER WITH A SEALABLE CLOSURE

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Jacques DENKO

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information.

1. ☒ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
"Executed"
10. ☒ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11 to 16 below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. Assignee: _____
12. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
13. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
14. ☐ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ Figure of Drawing to be published _____
18. ☒ Other items or information:
Cover Sheet and International Application as published in French.
PCT/IPEA/409(in French).
PCT/IB/304(in French).
PCT/IB/308(in French).
PCT/ISA/210.
Executed Small Entity Status Form.
Claim of Priority.

U.S. APPLICATION NO: (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/926546	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/FR00/01361	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER P21701
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19. The following fees are submitted: Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Search report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$ 890.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482). \$ 710.00 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO(37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)). \$ 740.00 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2) paid to USPTO.\$1,040.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4). \$ 100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY
\$890.00					
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 20 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).					
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	RATE		
Total Claims	- 20 =		X \$18.00		
Independent Claims	- 3 =		X \$84.00		
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00		
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =			\$890.00		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.			\$445.00		
SUBTOTAL =			\$445.00		
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 20 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).			+		
Extension of Time fee in the amount of \$					
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =			\$445.00		
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property			+		
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =			\$445.00		
			Amount to be refunded		
			Charged		


a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$445.00 to cover the above fee is enclosed.

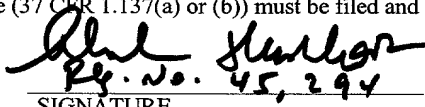
b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO CUSTOMER NO. 7055
 AT THE PRESENT ADDRESS OF:
 Neil F. Greenblum
 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
 1941 Roland Clarke Place
 Reston, VA 20191
 (703) 716-1191


07055
 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE


 SIGNATURE
 Neil F. Greenblum
 NAME
 28,394
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

Applicant or Patentee: Jacques DENKO Attorney's
Serial or Patent No.: not yet assigned Docket No.: _____
Filed or Issued: concurrently herewith
For: Flexible container with asealable closure

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled _____ described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith
☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ no such person, concern, or organization
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME DENKO Jacques
ADDRESS Residence les Cigalons, 49 avenue des Coccinelles, 13012 MARSEILLE -FRANCE
☒ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR
Jacques DENKO		
Signature of Inventor	Signature of Inventor	Signature of Inventor
Date <u>17 octobre 2001</u>	Date	Date

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Utility or Design Patent Application

Déclaration pour Demandes de Brevet d'Utilité et de Modèle avec Pouvoirs

French Language Declaration

En tant qu'inventeur nommé ci-après, Je déclare par le présent acte que:

Mon domicile, mon adresse postale et ma nationalité sont ceux figurant ci-dessous à côté de mon nom.

Je crois être le premier inventeur original et unique (si un seul nom est mentionné ci-dessous), ou l'un des premiers co-inventeurs originaux (si plusieurs noms sont mentionnés ci-dessous) de l'objet revendiqué, pour lequel une demande de brevet a été déposée concernant l'invention intitulée

CONTENANT SOUPLE A FERMETURE POUVANT ETRE

RENDUE ETANCHE

et dont la description est fournie ci-jointe à moins que la case suivante n'ait été cochée:

☒ a été déposée
sous le numéro de demande des Etats-Unis
et modifiée le _____ (le cas échéant)

le numéro de demande internationale PCT **PCT/FROO/01361**
et modifiée le _____ (le cas échéant).

Je déclare par le présent acte avoir passé en revue et compris le contenu de la description ci-dessus, revendications comprises, telles que modifiées par toute modification dont il aura été fait référence ci-dessus.

Je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations.

Je revendique par le présent acte avoir la priorité étrangère, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(a)-(d) ou § 365(b) du Code des Etats-Unis, sur toute demande étrangère de brevet ou certificat d'inventeur ou, en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(a) du même Code, sur toute demande internationale PCT désignant au moins un pays autre que les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous. J'ai aussi indiqué ci-dessous, en cochant la case "Non", toute demande étrangère de brevet, tout certificat d'inventeur ou toute demande internationale PCT ayant une date de dépôt précédant celle de la demande à propos de laquelle une priorité est revendiquée.

Prior foreign applications
Demandes antérieures étrangères

99/06601

(Number)
(Numéro)

FRANCE

(Country)
(Pays)

20 Mai 1999

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

(Number)
(Numéro)

(Country)
(Pays)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

☐ D'autres demandes étrangères sont énumérées sur la feuille de priorité supplémentaire ci-jointe.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☒ was filed on _____ as
United States Application Number _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable)
or,

PCT International Application Number _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code § 119 (a-d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below. I have also identified below, by checking the "No" box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Priority claimed
Priorité revendiquée

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No
Oui	Non
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No
Oui	Non

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

French Language Utility or Design Patent Application Declaration

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35 §119(e) du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet provisoire effectuée aux Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous.

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

- ☐ D'autres demandes provisoires sont énumérées sur la feuille de priorité supplémentaire ci-jointe.

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, §120 du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet effectuée aux Etats-Unis, ou en vertu du Titre 35, §365 (c) du même Code, de toute demande internationale PCT désignant les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, dans la mesure où l'objet de chacune des revendications de cette demande de brevet n'est pas divulgué dans la demande antérieure américaine ou internationale PCT, en vertu des dispositions du premier paragraphe du Titre 35, §112 du Code des Etats-Unis, je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, §1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations, dont j'ai pu disposer entre la date de dépôt de la demande antérieure et la date de dépôt de la demande nationale ou internationale PCT de la présente demande:

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

- ☐ D'autres demandes américaines ou internationales sont énumérées sur la feuille de priorité supplémentaire ci-jointe.

Je déclare par le présent acte que toute déclaration ci-incluse est, à ma connaissance, véridique et que toute déclaration formulée à partir de renseignements ou de suppositions est tenue pour véridique; et de plus, que toutes ces déclarations ont été formulées en sachant que toute fausse déclaration volontaire ou son équivalent est passible d'une amende ou d'une incarcération, ou des deux, en vertu de la Section 1001 du Titre 18 du Code des Etats-Unis, et que de telles déclarations volontairement fausses risquent de compromettre la validité de la demande de brevet ou du brevet délivré à partir de celle-ci.

Le(s) soussigné(s) autorise(nt) par la présente le(s) avocat(s) américain(s) ou le(s) mandataire(s) ci-après désigné(s) à accepter et à suivre les instructions, soit de son(leurs) conseil(s) en brevet étranger(s), soit du représentant officiel de la société, concernant toute démarche nécessaire à effectuer auprès de l'Office américain des Brevets et des Marques concernant cette demande, sans communication directe entre le(s) avocat(s) américain(s) ou le(s) mandataire(s) nommé(s) par la présente sera(ont) informé(s) par le(s) soussigné(s). Dans l'hypothèse d'un changement dans les donneurs d'instructions, le(s) avocat(s) américain(s) ou le(s) mandataire(s) nommé(s) par la présente sera(ont) informé(s) par le(s) soussigné(s).

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

- ☐ Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

(Status)
(Etat)
(patented, pending, abandoned)
(brevetée, pendante, abandonnée)

(Status)
(Etat)
(patented, pending, abandoned)
(brevetée, pendante, abandonnée)

- ☐ Additional U.S. or international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from either his foreign patent agent or corporate representative, if any, as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney or agent named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

P21701.A02

#4/a

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jacques DENKO

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Serial No : 09/926,546
(U.S. National Phase of PCT/FR00/01361)

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : November 19, 2001
(Int. Appl. Filed May 19, 2000)

For : FLEXIBLE CONTAINER WITH A SEALABLE CLOSURE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Prior to examination of the application and calculation of filing fees, please enter the following amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the Abstract appended on a separate page as Appendix 1 at the end of this Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3-10 as follows (for the Examiner's convenience, a clean copy of all pending claims is being reproduced below, with amended claims 3-10 being so labeled, and a marked-up version of the amended claims being submitted in Appendix 2 attached at

the end of this Amendment):

CLAIMS

1. Flexible container with a sealable closure, particularly adapted to bathers who wish to keep their valuables with them when they engage in nautical activities, but can lend itself to numerous applications in a number of fields whenever a sealed envelope which can be opened and closed as often as possible is desired,

characterized in that it is constituted of an envelope (1) with impermeable walls, open at its upper portion and comprising two rigid parallel bars (6, 7) which can fit tightly around the edges of the opening in order to seal it, at least one of these bars being movable, means (8, 9) for locking in tight position being arranged at both ends of these bars.

2. Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that the rigid bars (6, 7) are mounted on a system of hinges or journalled arms guaranteeing a correct position before tightening.

3. (Amended) Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a closure flap (5) of the envelope (1) to which at least one of the rigid bars (6, 7) is fixed, the second rigid bar being capable of being fixed either to the flap (5), or to the rear outer surface of the wall of the envelope (1).

4. (Amended) Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking elements are constituted of foldable tongues (8) fixed to the flap (5) or to the journal system of the rigid bars (6, 7), and provided with cutouts confining the ends of the bars (6, 7).

5. (Amended) Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking elements are constituted of elastic lugs (10) affixed to one of the rigid bars (6, 7) and locking on the second when it is sufficiently close.

6. (Amended) Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that the inner surface of the edges (3, 4) of the opening (2) comprise at least one glued or fixed compressible joint (10), which is pressed against the second joint or against the opposite edge at the time of closure of the envelope (1).

7. (Amended) Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that the edges (3, 4) of the envelope (1) are stiffened by means of strips made of metal or synthetic materials.

8. (Amended) Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that it can

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float due to a double wall filled with air or gas.

9. (Amended) Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that the envelope (1) comprises lateral bellows.

10. (Amended) Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that it constitutes waterproof pockets on containers which themselves may or may not be waterproof.

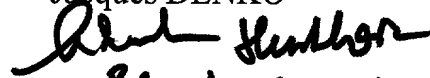
Remarks

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination of the application and calculation of filing fees. This Amendment is being filed in order to submit an Abstract of the Disclosure and to remove multiple claim dependencies.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to refund excess fees and charge any fees necessary for the consideration of this preliminary amendment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacques DENKO


Reg. No. 45,294

Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394

April 19, 2002
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
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Enclosures: Appendix 1
Appendix 2

APPENDIX 1

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Flexible container with a sealable closure, particularly adapted to bathers who wish to keep their valuables with them when they engage in nautical activities, but can lend itself to numerous applications in a number of fields whenever a sealed envelope which can be opened and closed as often as possible is desired, wherein the container includes an envelope with impermeable walls, open at its upper portion and comprising two rigid parallel bars which can fit tightly around the edges of the opening in order to seal it, at least one of these bars being movable, and a locking device in tight position being arranged at both ends of these bars.---

APPENDIX 2

CLAIMS

3. (Amended) Flexible container according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a closure flap (5) of the envelope (1) to which at least one of the rigid bars (6, 7) is fixed, the second rigid bar being capable of being fixed either to the flap (5), or to the rear outer surface of the wall of the envelope (1).

4. (Amended) Flexible container according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the locking elements are constituted of foldable tongues (8) fixed to the flap (5) or to the journal system of the rigid bars (6, 7), and provided with cutouts confining the ends of the bars (6, 7).

5. (Amended) Flexible container according to [any of claims 1-3] claim 1, characterized in that the locking elements are constituted of elastic lugs (10) affixed to one of the rigid bars (6, 7) and locking on the second when it is sufficiently close.

6. (Amended) Flexible container according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the inner surface of the edges (3, 4) of the opening (2) comprise at least one glued or fixed compressible joint (10), which is pressed against the second joint or against the opposite edge at the time of closure of the envelope (1).

7. (Amended) Flexible container according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the edges (3, 4) of the envelope (1) are stiffened by means of strips made of metal or synthetic materials.

8. (Amended) Flexible container according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that it can float due to a double wall filled with air or gas.

9. (Amended) Flexible container according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the envelope (1) comprises lateral bellows.

10. (Amended) Flexible container according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that it constitutes waterproof pockets on containers which themselves may or may not be waterproof.

Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 APR 2002**FLEXIBLE CONTAINER WITH A SEALABLE CLOSURE**

The present invention relates to a flexible container with a sealable closure.

5 It is particularly adapted to bathers who wish to keep their valuables with them when they engage in nautical activities such as swimming, diving, windsurfing, or the like, but can lend itself to numerous applications in a number of fields whenever a sealed envelope which can be opened and closed as often as possible is desired.

10 A large number of devices adapted to protect objects against water currently exist. In particular, belts comprising one or a plurality of waterproof compartments are known, but these are relatively expensive and cumbersome systems, the use of which can become generalized only with difficulty.

15 French Patents No. FR 2 513 864 and No. FR 2 517 183, filed by the Applicant, disclose a flattened flexible waterproof case comprising on one of its surfaces a cutout into which a rigid cover fits due to a groove arranged either on the periphery of this cutout, or on the periphery of the cover.

20 The necessity of having to insert the cover into the groove of the case, or the edges of the cutout into that of the cover makes the operations of opening and closing difficult, and the cover may be lost.

25 Moreover, since this type of device is adapted more specifically for use on the beach, there is a risk of grains of sand becoming lodged in the grooves, compromising the waterproofness of the unit.

30 Another patent, No. FR 2 760 949, filed by the same inventor, describes a flattened case that is waterproof, in particular to sea water, which opens by mere pressure on the side ends of the edges causing them to move apart, related to the protection of various objects, such as coins, bank notes, keys, identity papers against water, perspiration, sand, dust, etc., and comprising compressible joints arranged on the inner surface of the edges of the opening, arranged so as to make said case absolutely waterproof when no pressure is exerted, steel strips providing the closing force being incorporated between the walls of the

case and the joints.

However, the principle used only makes it possible to obtain small sized wallets, which considerably limits the scope of application of this system.

5

One of the objects of the present invention is to remedy this disadvantage. Indeed, it makes it possible to make bags or wallets of all types and sizes, with an absolutely waterproof closure.

10

It is constituted of an envelope with impermeable walls, open at its upper portion and comprising two rigid parallel bars which can fit tightly around the edges of the opening in order to seal it, at least one of these bars being fixed to a closure flap of the envelope, means for locking in tight position being arranged at both ends of these bars.

15

In the annexed drawings, provided by way of non-limiting examples of embodiments of the object of the invention:

Figure 1 shows an isometric perspective of an open wallet comprising only one sealing joint,

20

Figure 2 shows an end view of the same wallet, closed along the arrow F1 of the previous Figure,

25

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical cross-section of a wallet identical to that of Figure 1, but comprising two sealing joints,

Figure 4 shows the wallet of Figure 3, closed, under the same conditions,

Figure 5 is an enlargement of the detail D1 of Figure 4, and

30

Figure 6 shows a top view of an example of a locking system of the closure.

The device, Figures 1-6, is constituted of an envelope comprising a top opening formed of two edges joined at their ends, a front end 3 and a rear end 4, this opening being

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capable of being closed by means of a flap 5 fixed to the rear wall of the envelope.

5 The opening can be sealed by means of two rigid parallel bars 6, 7, made of metal or reinforced plastic, arranged so as to be able to compress the edges 3, 4, against one another. The front bar 6 is movable and fixed to the inner surface of the flap 5 by any adequate means, whereas the rear bar 7 can be fixed either to the flap, or to the rear outer surface of the wall of the envelope 1.

10 When the flap 5 is lifted, the front bar 6 is moved apart from the rear bar and releases the opening allowing access to the inside of the device. When it is folded back, the front bar positions itself against the front edge 3 of the opening, facing the rear bar 7. The waterproofness is obtained by manually pressing the two bars against one another, and by maintaining them in this position due to locking elements arranged at the ends of these bars. By way of example, these elements can be constituted of foldable tongues 8 fixed to the flap
15 5 and provided with cutouts confining the ends of the bars 6, 7. They can also be constituted of elastic lugs 10 affixed to one of the bars and locking on the second when it is sufficiently close, the opening occurring by pressing on the lug to move it apart from the end of the bar (arrow F2, Figure 6). Any other system can be used insofar as it fulfils the same functions. In particular, a lock device can be used.

20

The wall of the envelope 1 can be made out of any materials, but a waterproof material is preferably used, such as flexible plastics, rubber, or elastomer. When the texture of the envelope wall does not make it possible to obtain a good waterproofness, one can provide on the inner surface of the edges of the opening 2 at least one glued or fixed
25 compressible joint 10, which is pressed against the second joint or against the opposite edge at the time of closure of the envelope.

30

For large sized constructions, the edges 3, 4 of the envelope 1 can be stiffened by means of strips made of metal or synthetic material.

The container which is the object of the invention can be in numerous forms and sizes, from the wallet to the sea bag, handbag, backpack, school satchel. It can be used to obtain waterproof pockets on bags which themselves may or may not be waterproof, it can comprise lateral bellows or can be provided with a double wall filled with air or gas enabling

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the device to float.

It must be noted that the envelope can be used as required with or without waterproofness, depending upon whether or not the locking means 8, 9 are used.

5

The bars 6, 7 can possibly be mounted on a system of hinges or journalled arms guaranteeing a correct position before tightening. For certain alternative embodiments, this arrangement makes it possible to eliminate the flap 5, the locking means 8, 9 being fixed in this case to these hinges or journalled arms.

10

The positioning of the various constituent elements gives the object of the invention a maximum of useful effects which had not been previously obtained by similar devices.

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CLAIMS

1. Flexible container with a sealable closure, particularly adapted to bathers who wish to keep their valuables with them when they engage in nautical activities, but can lend
5 itself to numerous applications in a number of fields whenever a sealed envelope which can be opened and closed as often as possible is desired,

characterized in that it is constituted of an envelope (1) with impermeable walls, open at its upper portion and comprising two rigid parallel bars (6, 7) which can fit tightly around the edges of the opening in order to seal it, at least one of these bars being movable,
10 means (8, 9) for locking in tight position being arranged at both ends of these bars.

2. Flexible container according to claim 1, characterized in that the rigid bars (6, 7) are mounted on a system of hinges or journalled arms guaranteeing a correct position before tightening.
15

3. Flexible container according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a closure flap (5) of the envelope (1) to which at least one of the rigid bars (6, 7) is fixed, the second rigid bar being capable of being fixed either to the flap (5), or to the rear outer surface of the wall of the envelope (1).
20

4. Flexible container according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the locking elements are constituted of foldable tongues (8) fixed to the flap (5) or to the journal system of the rigid bars (6, 7), and provided with cutouts confining the ends of the bars (6, 7).
25

5. Flexible container according to any of claims 1-3, characterized in that the locking elements are constituted of elastic lugs (10) affixed to one of the rigid bars (6, 7) and locking on the second when it is sufficiently close.

6. Flexible container according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the inner surface of the edges (3, 4) of the opening (2) comprise at least one glued or fixed compressible joint (10), which is pressed against the second joint or against the opposite edge at the time of closure of the envelope (1).
30

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7. Flexible container according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the edges (3, 4) of the envelope (1) are stiffened by means of strips made of metal or synthetic materials.

5 8. Flexible container according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it can float due to a double wall filled with air or gas.

9. Flexible container according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the envelope (1) comprises lateral bellows.

10

10. Flexible container according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it constitutes waterproof pockets on containers which themselves may or may not be waterproof.

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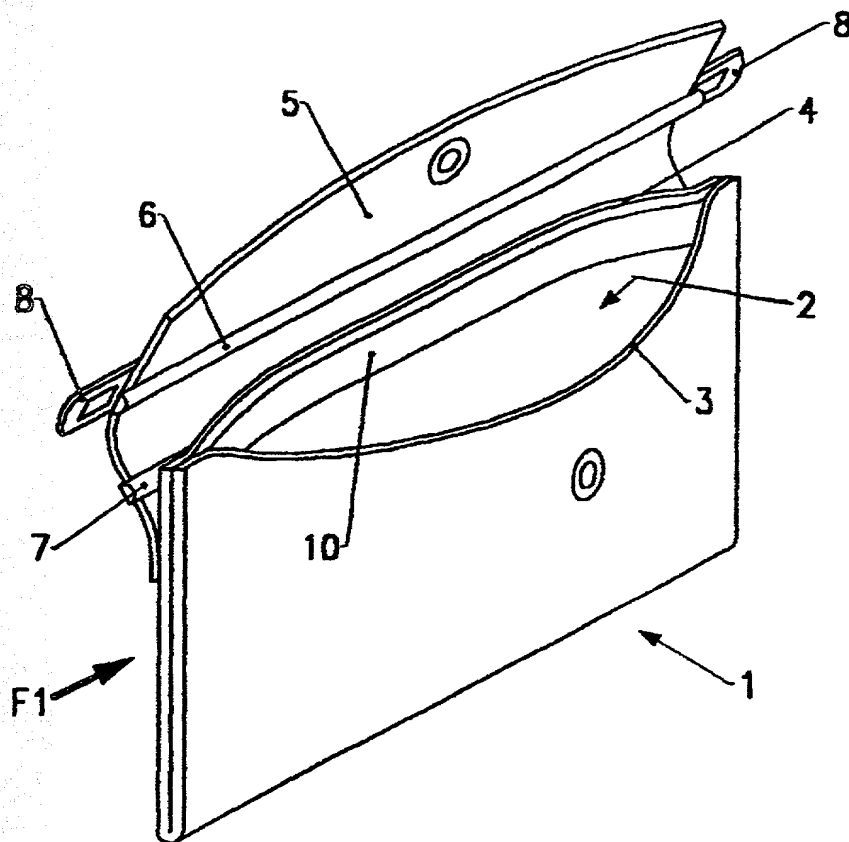
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(54) Title: FLEXIBLE CONTAINER WITH A SEALABLE CLOSURE

(54) Titre: CONTENANT SOUPLE A FERMETURE POUVANT ETRE RENDUE ETANCHE

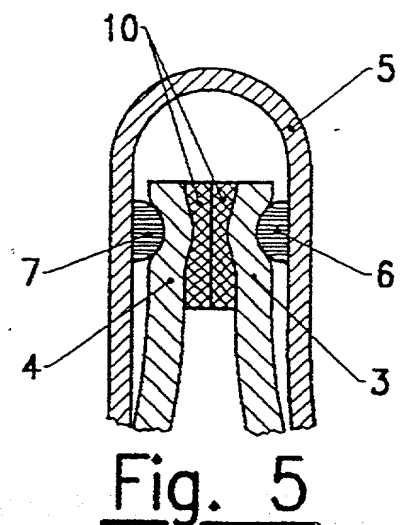
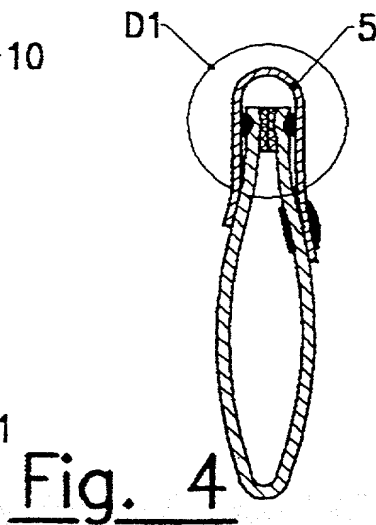
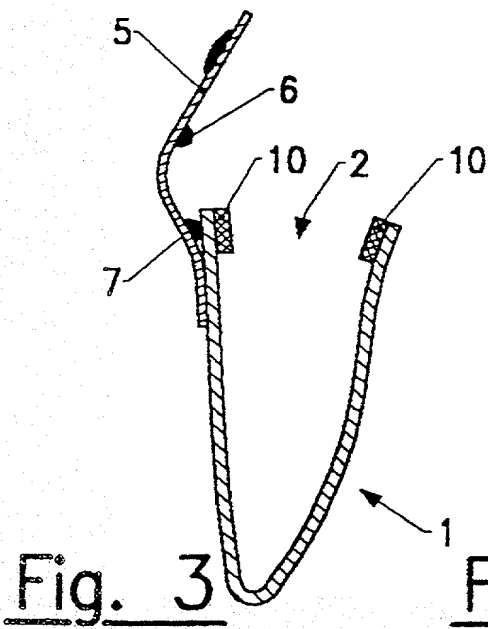
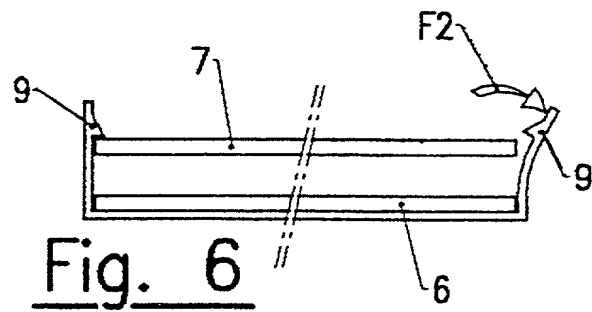
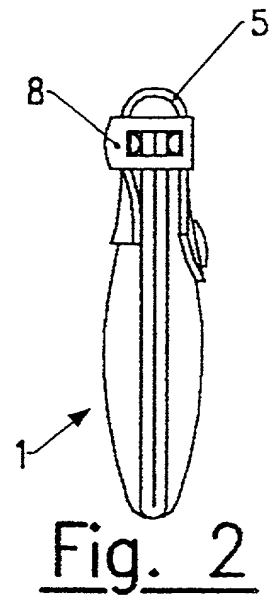
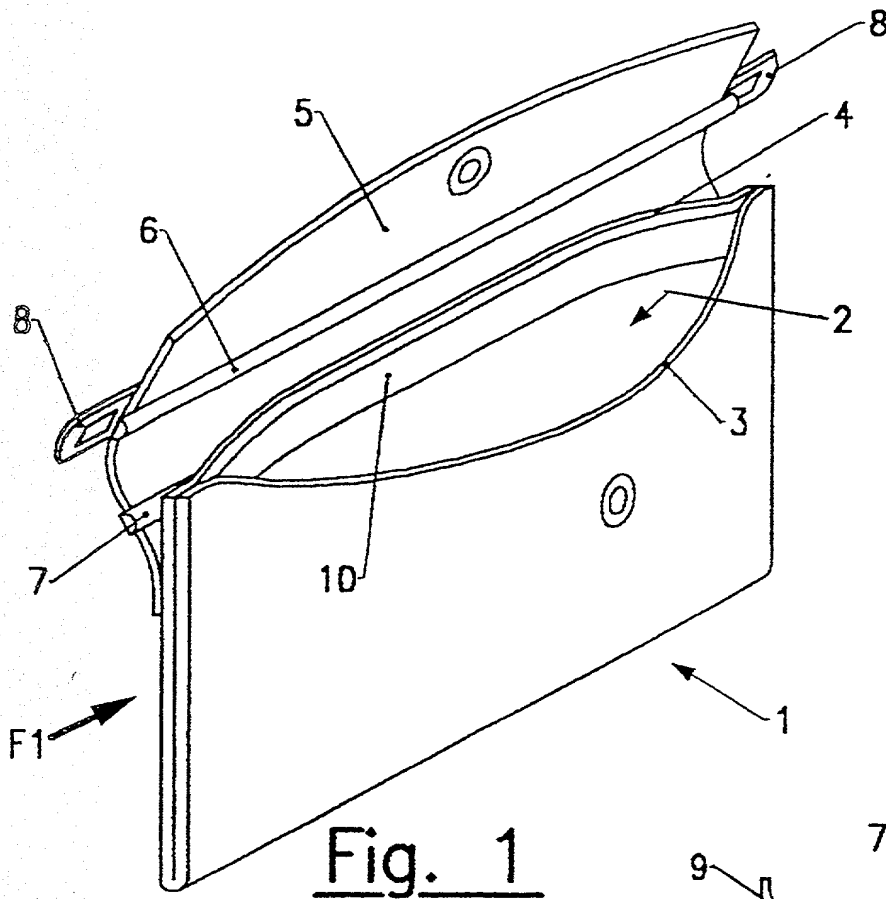


(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a flexible container with a sealable closure. The inventive container is comprised of an envelope (1) which has impermeable walls and which is open towards the upper part thereof and comprises two rigid parallel bars (6, 7) which can fit tightly around the edges (3, 4) of the opening (2) in order to seal said opening, whereby at least one of said bars is fixed to a closure flap (5) of said envelope and means for locking in a tight position are disposed on both ends of said bars. The invention is specifically aimed at bathers who wish to keep their valuables with them when they become involved in nautical activities such as swimming, diving, windsurfing etc. but can also be applied on a widespread basis in a number of fields whenever a sealed envelope which can be opened and closed as often as possible is required.

[Suite sur la page suivante]

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French Language Utility or Design Patent Application Declaration

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